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438 With the exception of the planting season, the general price and
439 supply situation is dominated by local rice.

Although considerable amounts (unfortunately there is no record
●432 of their size) of both domestic and foreign rice entering Shanghai
511 are resold to or originally ordered by other cities, relatively more of the foreign imports fall into this category. The table on page 146 above should therefore be interpreted in the light of the ultimate destination of the several categories of rice shipments arriving in the city. Total sales of rice in Shanghai, for which relatively more accurate figures are kept, provide a different indication of the city's rice consumption. Sales are estimated by the Food Commission's study as averaging annually 860,000,000 pounds during the period 1925–1930.* Their report assumes that the difference of nearly 100,000,000 pounds between this figure and the total recorded entries of 780,000,000 pounds is accounted for by unrecorded shipments arriving by creek and canal from nearby sources. Shipment of much or most of the foreign rice from Shanghai to other cities would leave an even greater gap between the two figures as measures of Shanghai's consumption, and it is logical to assume that this also is filled from local sources.

The figure for total sales, however, may not be an accurate indication of total consumption if we attempt to estimate the average annual rice consumption of a Chinese adult and multiply it by the population of Shanghai in 1930. A Chinese economist[21] suggests four piculs per year (532 pounds), which, using 3,250,000 as Shanghai's 1930 population (graph I) gives a total city consumption of 1,730,000,000 pounds. Or if we use a lower estimate of 400 pounds,[22] which agrees more closely with the writer's experience, and scale down this figure to 380 to allow for children, for other cereals and foods in the Shanghai diet (see above, p. 139), and for the non-rice-eating foreign population of the city (38,000 in 1930), we still arrive
[146] at a figure of 1,235,000 pounds. This is equivalent to about 1,750 calories per day per capita from rice alone, certainly a minimum diet for a Chinese.

* This figure presumably includes spot sales of foreign rice by Shanghai brokers to dealers in other cities, but probably does not include foreign rice delivered in Shanghai on order from other cities.